

LIVELY TIMES IN COMMONS

Over the Transvaal Question. Redmond Grows Witty at His Own Expense.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S DEFENSE

Of the Government's Policy With Regard to Treatment of President Kruger.

HE STIRS UP OPPOSITION

And Controversy Becomes Very Warm—Called to Order by the Speaker.

LONDON, Oct. 19.—Floor and galleries were densely crowded to-day in the house of commons in anticipation of a speech by the secretary of state for the colonies, Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, on the government's policy in South Africa.

The first lord of the treasury and government leader, Arthur J. Balfour, promised to answer to-morrow a question whether the government had decided upon a specific course of action with reference to the recommendation of the international commission respecting the future administration of Samoa.

The secretary of state for India, Lord George Hamilton, replying to a question on the expenditure for the Indian troops in South Africa said the entire charge would be defrayed out of the imperial exchequer.

Mr. Balfour, in reply to an interpellation as to whether the imperial government were now reviewing the action of the Cape Colony premier, Mr. Schreiner, and other members of the Cape government and as to whether the government of Cape Colony, Sir Alfred Milner would be allowed to dismiss the Schreiner ministry, to dissolve the Cape legislature and temporarily to assume full authority, said:

"This question is apparently founded upon newspaper reports for which, so far as the imperial government are aware there is no foundation."

Mr. Balfour announced that the present sitting of parliament would be regarded as a complete session, to be terminated by prorogation and not adjourned until February.

Henry Selon-Karr, conservative, in accordance with notice given yesterday asked the first lord of the treasury whether the attention of the government had been directed to certain speeches and letters by and emanating from the members for Kilkenny, and East Clare, Messrs. Patrick O'Brien and William Redmond, Parnellites, advocating the cause of the Boers, attempting to seduce British soldiers and inciting them actively to assist the enemies of the queen and what action, if any the government proposed to take in the matter.

Passage at Arms. Mr. Redmond rose quickly and said that, before the first lord of the treasury replied, he desired to ask him whether it were not a fact that he (Mr. Redmond) in suggesting a message of sympathy to President Kruger had only followed the precedent set by her majesty's grandson, the German Emperor. (Loud laughter.)

Mr. Balfour replied as follows: "I was not aware that the honorable member for East Clare framed himself on such an august model. (Laughter.) I may point out, among the differences between himself and the emperor of Germany that his imperial majesty is not a Britisher nor a member of this house."

Mr. Chamberlain, who was loudly cheered on rising, began with a severe criticism of the action of the opposition at the previous meeting of parliament. Their statements, he said, were calculated to encourage President Kruger's resistance and to embarrass the government in "most difficult and most critical functions."

Referring to Mr. Stanhope's letter to Mr. Hawkesley, he said he would gladly produce this if Sir William Vernon Harcourt and John Morley, who were members of the South African committee demanded it.

Mr. Stanhope's criticism, he characterized as "neither honest nor honorable."

"The government welcomed all honest and honorable criticism of their policy," said Mr. Chamberlain, "and I wish I could apply these epithets to the speech of the member for Burnley."

Mr. Stanhope, leaping to his feet, cried: "I rise to order. I thought fit yesterday to arraign the conduct of the secretary for the colonies. He speaks of my criticism as dishonorable and dishonest. Can such terms be applied to members of this house?" (Opposition cheers.)

The speaker—I think the language of the secretary of state for the colonies is going somewhat beyond—the rest of his words being drowned in wild Irish cheers and shouts of "Withdraw!"

Mr. Chamberlain calmly waited until the uproar had subsided and then said:

Withdraws His Remarks. "I bow with all respect, Mr. Speaker, to your decision. I withdraw everything I have said."

Then, amid frequent ironical Irish cheers, he proceeded to denounce the "campaign of slander" based upon his refusal to accept Mr. Stanhope's challenge to produce the letter he wrote

Hawkesley, saying that if Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman or Sir William Vernon Harcourt desired to see the letter he would produce it with the greatest pleasure, as they were honorable members and honorable men. (Cries of "order" and "withdraw.")

Mr. Stanhope again leaped to his feet and called upon the speaker to intervene. The speaker rejoined that he did not think what the colonial secretary had said imputed dishonorable conduct to the member for Burnley.

Passing to the general question of the government's South African policy, Mr. Chamberlain said that in the light of recent events and of the utterances of President Kruger he had come to the conclusion that war had always been inevitable, although it was only of late that he had himself most reluctantly reached this view. He had hoped for peace and striven to maintain it and up to a recent date he had believed that peace was possible. He had always been determined to secure justice for the Britishers in South Africa and to maintain the paramountcy of Great Britain; but with these things assured, he desired peace. Whenever there had been a doubt as to President Kruger's motives, the government had always given him the benefit of the doubt.

Turning to the principles involved in the war, the colonial secretary went on to say:

"If we maintain our existence as a great power in South Africa we are bound to show that we are willing and able to protect British subjects wherever they have suffered injustice and oppression. Great Britain must remain the paramount power in South Africa. I do not mean paramount in the German and Portuguese possessions, but in the two republics and the British colonies."

Racial Animosity.

Mr. Chamberlain then proceeded to discuss the question of racial animosity, denying that this feeling, which, he said, was based in South Africa on contempt, would be increased by hostilities. He declared that racial animosity had not been created by anything the present government had done, but that it existed before her majesty's present advisers assumed responsibility.

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman interposed with the remark:

"What I wish to point out is that the feeling of racial animosity will be increased a hundredfold when the Dutch and English are slaughtering each other." (Opposition cheers.)

Mr. Chamberlain retorted: "I say again that the racial animosity which has been the curse of South Africa is based on contempt. Hate is bad enough, but I would rather have a man's hate than his contempt. There will never be an end of racial animosity nor will there ever be peace in South Africa until both races have learned to respect the other."

Referring to the relations of the Boers with the natives, Mr. Chamberlain said: "There is one subject not dealt with in the blue book. I mean the disgraceful, unworthy treatment of the natives, unworthy a civilized power. In 1896 I actually sent a message to Sir Hercules Robinson, in the Transvaal, respecting the treatment of the natives. Then came the Jameson raid, and our South African officials decided that they could not with propriety present the message. The Boers, in their own words, trekked because they wanted to 'wallop the niggers.'"

John Dillon cried: "That is not true!"

This was followed by loud demands for order and the speaker called upon Mr. Dillon to withdraw the remark. The latter responded: "I have not impeached the veracity of the colonial secretary."

The speaker—I hope such expressions will not occur again.

Question of Supremacy.

Proceeding to discuss the question of supremacy Mr. Chamberlain said:

"The whole object of the Boers is to oust the queen from her position as sovereign. Now they have thrown off the mask and declared themselves a sovereign, independent state. Her majesty's government have had a suspicion amounting to the knowledge that the mission of Dr. Leyds has been one continual series of negotiations with foreign powers against the British. (Loud cheers.)"

"The Transvaal and the Free State have an ideal which is dangerous to Great Britain, and by the continuous use of arms, the Transvaal had become by far the most powerful military state in Africa. That was a danger, and we have escaped one of the greatest dangers we were ever subjected to in Africa. The whole point of difference between the opposition and the government is as to the details of the negotiations."

Justifying his conduct of affairs, Mr. Chamberlain denied that the question of supremacy had needlessly irritated the Transvaal government or seriously affected the negotiations. As for the franchise for the Outlanders he declared that the government had never shifted its ground and that every point advanced at the Bloemfontein conference by Sir Alfred Milner had remained on paper until the ultimatum.

Mr. Chamberlain added:

"I am much more afraid of the charge of being too moderate than of the charge of being excessive. The government's reply to the Transvaal accepted the five-year franchise proposal except in respect to the pledge that Great Britain would never interfere in the Transvaal's internal affairs, but they hoped that if the five-year franchise measures were carried into effect there would be no occasion for interference. I believe that influential advisers—I do not mean foreign powers—must have intervened and induced the Transvaal government to withdraw their offer."

"As for the last proposal formulated by the British government I may say that the desire of the right honorable member for West Monmouthshire (Sir William Vernon Harcourt) that the public will never be gratified. That ultimatum is buried and is not likely to be resurrected. (Laughter.)"

Chamberlain's Challenge.

"I challenge anyone to see a sign of provocation, blood guiltiness or desire of war in the negotiations. The government increased the garrison for defense on pressure from the Natal administration, to whom grateful thanks are due."

The colonial secretary identified himself with the mother country. They knew they would be the first to bear the brunt of attack; yet they threw in their lot, heart and soul, with the mother country.

"Her majesty's present advisers claim, quite an earnestly as any previous government could have claimed, to be anxious to honor and interests of the country. That is why they have supported the principle of protection for British subjects. That is why they uphold and confirm the suzerainty of England."

"Our countrymen have seen a magnificent demonstration not only of loyalty,

but of sympathy with the objects of the government on the part of the colonies. I have been as anxious to place as any man, but the government holds that there are considerations which are even more important than peace, and one of these is the maintenance of equality between the white races in South Africa. In their endeavor to maintain peace, the government has shown endless patience. It was President Kruger who settled the issue. He appealed to the God of battles and I may do so with reverence I say we accept that appeal, believing our quarrel just."

Mr. Chamberlain, who had spoken two hours and three-quarters, resumed his seat amid loud and prolonged cheering. United States Ambassador Choate and Henry White, secretary of the United States embassy, were in the chamber during Mr. Chamberlain's speech.

Morley Makes a Point.

John Morley, Liberal member for the Montrose district, on rising to speak, was greeted with loud cheers by the opposition. He said:

"A very material change has come over the spirit of the discussion since the brilliant, eloquent forcible and unanswerable speech of Sir Edward Clarke, and it now seems as if we are going to war, not for the franchise, but for suzerainty. Under the name of paramountcy we are going to impose on the Transvaal obligations which the government would not for the life of them dare impose upon any self-governing colony."

Mr. Chamberlain interposed: "If we could imagine such a case as a self-governing colony imposing on a majority of its inhabitants such conditions as the Boers imposed upon British subjects, we should interfere or cut the connection."

Mr. Morley contended that in New Foundland was a remarkable case of alienation of territory in favor of an individual, but, though that corresponded to the position of affairs in the Transvaal, Mr. Chamberlain refused to interfere.

Mr. Chamberlain said the cases were in no way comparable.

Sir Edward Clarke, Conservative member for Plymouth, said the more he had read the correspondence the more convinced he had been of blunders in the negotiations and that this lamentable war was unnecessary.

For any minister to assert that "we since 1884 have had suzerainty over the Transvaal," Sir Edward declared, was certainly at variance with the facts and a breach of national faith. President Kruger had had much difficulty with his volksraad, and on many occasions had shown himself moderate and an advocate of peace. There was no reason why the conditions which President Kruger had proposed to the franchise proposals should not have been accepted, seeing that suzerainty was dropped in 1884.

Did Mr. Chamberlain, Sir Edward asked, think his reply to the Transvaal of September 8, conciliatory?

Mr. Chamberlain: "Certainly."

Sir Edward retorted: "Then I think this amendment proved to the hilt" (Radio cheers.)

Question of Interpretation. A brief discussion between Mr. Chamberlain and Sir Edward Clarke ensued, respecting the interpretation that should be placed upon Mr. Chamberlain's reply, the colonial secretary maintaining that the tenor of the reply was conciliatory, saying: "We do not accept all of Kruger's proposals. Though we accepted nine-tenths."

Sir Edward rejoined that Mr. Chamberlain's remarks made the matter more and more sad. If this sort of thing had been going on, the war was a crime against civilization. The reply to the seven-year franchise would have been accepted and there would have been no war. Mr. Chamberlain's conduct of the correspondence he characterized as most clumsy.

He had given twenty years unwavering support to his party, but there was, Sir Edward continued, a deeper and truer loyalty to a party than blindly going with it in a division and in the lobby and some day his friends would acquit him of dilatoriness in having striven to prevent his country from suffering a calamity and his party from suffering reproach for having embarked on an unnecessary war. (Opposition cheers.)

LAWTON'S EXPEDITION

In Moving Towards Isidro to Establish Base of Operations.

MANILA, Oct. 19.—General Lawton and General Young are at Arayat with a force of nearly 3,000 men. The gunboats Florida and Oestre are preparing to move along the river to San Isidro, which will be held as a base of operations for the north.

Extensive preparations have been in progress for several days and the expedition, whose objective point is Tarlac, is expected to start to-day. The supplies will be taken on caissons.

General Lawton's force consists of eight companies of the Twenty-fourth Infantry, under Colonel Keller; eight companies of the Twenty-second Infantry, under Major Baldwin; nine troops of the Fourth cavalry, mounted, under Colonel Hayes, and a mixed regiment consisting of one company of the Thirty-seventh Infantry, six guns, commanded by Captain Scott; one company of cavalry and Captain Batson's Macabebe scouts.

The Third cavalry is equipping at San Fernando to join the expedition. Heavy rains, the first in weeks, began last night and have continued steadily. General Lawton is supposed to have reached San Isidro. No communication has been received from him since he left Arayat this morning.

"Aunties" Elect Officers.

CHICAGO, Oct. 19.—The committee on permanent organization appointed by the anti-imperialist conference met here to-day and formed a national organization to be known as the American Anti-Imperialist league. Existing organizations will become members at the outset, and the work of securing new local organizations will be pushed all over the country.

The following were elected as officers of the league: President, George S. Boutwell, Massachusetts; vice president, George F. Edmunds, Vermont; J. Sterling Morton, Nebraska; Carl Schurz, New York; Richard T. Crane, Illinois; Donaldson Caffrey, Louisiana; Rufus B. Smith, Ohio, and John Valentine, California.

Chicago was selected as the headquarters of the league, with an eastern office in Boston. Other offices will be established as required.

Coal Rates Advanced. CLEVELAND, O., Oct. 19.—The Ohio Coal Traffic Association at a meeting to-day advanced the freight on coal shipped from Ohio, Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The rate in Toledo was put up ten cents, to Detroit ten cents, to Chicago fifteen cents and to points in Michigan on the relative basis.

Congratulations, George.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 19.—United States Senator George F. Hoar was today unanimously re-elected president of the Unitarian council.

SHAMROCK WAS CLEARLY OUTSAILED

But the Wind Failed to Hold out to Allow Yachts to Finish in the Time Limit.

COLUMBIA WAS LEADING

Three Miles When the Race Was Declared Off—Lipton Plays in Hard Luck.

NEW YORK, Oct. 19.—Had the wind held to-day, the Columbia-Shamrock series for America's cup would have ended in three straight wins for the defender, and the Irish cup hunter would have sailed home without the trophy, beaten as badly as any former candidate. Only the failure of the wind saved the Shamrock from a defeat more stinging than on Monday. To-day she was beaten on the run to the outer mark 5 minutes and 51 seconds elapsed time, and on the leg home, which should have been a beat, but which owing to a shift of the wind, was a broad reach, Columbia sailed away from her like a witch. When the race was declared off, about ten minutes before the expiration of the time limit, Columbia was leading by about three miles. She was then four miles from the finish. Had the race ended Shamrock would have been beaten by at least twenty minutes.

Sir Thomas' hard luck continued to follow. His boat was very badly handled to-day in spite of the aggregation of talent aboard of her. The two English captains and the captain of Emperor William's yacht Meteor failed to get Shamrock over the line before the handicap gun was fired and she went into the race penalized by two seconds on that account. The additional ballast which was put into her yesterday also seemed to have been a blunder on the part of her managers, as it increased the size of the body to be forced through the water and in the light air that prevailed to-day retarded instead of increased her speed. What Shamrock may be able to do in rough weather and a reefing wind is still problematical but after the drubbing she has received the experts are almost unanimous in the belief that the Columbia can take her measure in light airs or a gale of wind.

Have Given it up.

The crew of the Shamrock have given it up. They are now convinced that we have the better boat. Before the race on Monday they had the most supreme confidence in their ability to win with Shamrock. "There was no living with them," said one of the Yankee tars on the Shamrock's tender Lawrence. "They did not think our boat would win; they absolutely knew it. They would not even hear arguments. After they returned from the race Monday they were so sore that they would not speak to each other. Now they are frank enough to admit that the Columbia is the better boat by ten minutes over a thirty mile course."

The yachts will race again to-morrow, and even if Columbia wins there is a possibility that two more races will be sailed. A suggestion to this effect has been made and Sir Thomas appears anxious that it should be carried out. He has been greatly disappointed in the showing his boat has made, not believing he might do better over a triangular course in a heavier wind, and has said that he would be very pleased to sail two more races.

The course to-day was laid fifteen miles before the wind, southeast by south, straight out to sea. After some pretty maneuvering behind the line, Captain Barr, on the Columbia, beat the talent aboard the challenger, sending the Columbia flying across the line twenty-seven seconds ahead of his adversary. So badly had the Shamrock miscalculated that the handicap gun boomed two seconds before the green boat crossed and she sailed away with that penalty in addition to the sixteen seconds she allows the white wonder under the new measurement.

The race to the outer mark was not exciting. Both yachts crossed with bulging balloons, mainsails and their largest club topsails drawing. But as the wind had pulled a little to southward after the course had been set instead of keeping away for the mark they made almost a triangular race of it. Without setting their spinnakers they luffed sharply to starboard, each striving for the weather gauge.

Columbia Shows Her Heels.

The Columbia showed her rival a fleet pair of heels, gaining gradually from the start. For almost an hour the luffing match continued, carrying the yachts four miles off their course. The Shamrock having been badly beaten in her attempt to get to windward, both squared away for the mark, breaking out their big spinnakers to the wind. After watching the yachts run before the wind for an hour, during which the breeze gradually died down to about five knots or less, the excursion fleet turned ahead and gathered about the float to witness the turn. By the time they had lined up the big yachts could hardly be seen. Through the haze across the water they looked like phantom pyramids. The wind kept falling and there was a long wait. The excursion boats became impatient as they lay wallowing in the swell and they shifted their positions uneasily starting and stopping their engines. The balloons of the big sloops belled in and out, shivered, collapsed and the race

was degenerating into a drifting match as they approached the mark. The challenger was directly astern of the Columbia, trying with her mountains of canvass to blanket the towering sails of the Yankee. But Columbia was a wizard. Somehow she managed to get wind enough from somewhere to keep her slipping through the water, and in vain Shamrock strained to overtake her. The yachts were half an hour covering the last half mile.

Shamrock Becalmed.

Slowly but stately as a queen the white leviathan wore around the mark and filled away. Passing Shamrock, still outward bound, close aboard on her weather, she robbed her of the light breeze and left her with drooping winns utterly becalmed for a full minute. It must have been a minute of intense chagrin aboard the challenger, and the patriots could not but feel a sense of pity for the loser. A brass throated chorus had greeted the Columbia as she rounded and it was repeated with added vigor when Shamrock rounded six minutes and eighteen seconds later. The Columbia had gained five minutes and fifty-one seconds in the fifteen miles to leeward. About three and a half hours had been consumed and there appeared no chance for either yacht to get home, but as the breeze continued to haul to the southward, it made a fair wind for the return journey and as it freshened to ten knots soon afterward a faint hope of finishing within the time limit arose.

The Yankee sailed away from her rival like a ghost ship, leaving her far astern, increasing the distance between them so rapidly that when the race was declared off at 4:19 she was leading by three miles.

Soap Man Will Try It.

LONDON, Oct. 20.—A provincial paper is authority for the statement that if the Shamrock fails to win the America's cup, Mr. Lever, a millionaire soap manufacturer, intends to issue a challenge for a series of races in 1900.

SENATOR HANNA

Being Challenged to Talk About Trusts by the Democrats, Takes Up the Gage of Battle.

CLEVELAND, O., Oct. 19.—Senator Hanna, in a speech before the Fifth District Republican club to-night, defined his position regarding the trusts. On this subject he said:

"The Democrats say I am afraid to talk about the trusts. That settles it. I am going to talk about them. This combination of capital for one purpose or another is not a political question at all. It is a business question, and ought not to have been brought into politics. When our industries were in their infancy England and other countries came along and sold goods in this country at less than the price asked in their own. They followed the protective tariff law formulated by that friend of the workmen, Wm. McKinley. Having secured this protection American manufacturers went abroad. They are making rapid strides and are successfully competing with the whole world. It is evident, however, that they cannot continue to do so unless they have combined capital."

"We ought to own and control our own merchant vessels. We then would be in a shape to make our own rates and compete with other nations on an equal footing. We now have reached the stage when we are doing more exporting than importing. The last year was the first year in the history of the country that this was true. But we must look to the future. We must stand prepared for the changes that are bound to come."

This formation of combines is simply an evolution in business methods. Should railways own their own steamship lines there would be a marked change in the rates. All this requires capital and such a tremendous amount that no ordinary corporation could stand it. The so-called trusts are not new. They have been found in England and Germany as far back as two hundred years and are increasing. Therefore, from a business standpoint of view, the formation of these combinations, in one sense, is one step forward. The Democrats would have you believe that they are terrible Anacondas that will swallow us all up. However, if the trusts are a menace to the country, what party better than the Republican can give you relief? When it comes down to plain facts, the various labor organizations are a sort of trust, and I believe in them and always have. They are for the purpose, I believe, of helping the individual members. The organizations of the employer should go hand in hand with the organizations of the employed. In that way much good can be accomplished."

Boers Falling Back.

LADYSMITH, Oct. 19.—The Free State Boers, on the falling back of the British patrols, occupied Acton Homes yesterday. Their probable intention is to co-operate with the disaffected Natal Dutch in Umvol. Major Adaye says that not a single shell fired at the British scouts by Boer artillery exploded. This bears out the reports that the Boers shells are defective. It is reported that Chief Dinisulu held a Zulu Indaba near Isandula recently. His attitude is loyal.

Alleged Boer Outrages.

CAPE TOWN, Oct. 19.—Complaints of Boer outrages upon the natives continue to arrive. These serve further to inflame the Basutos and Zulus. Yesterday 150 Basutos from Johannesburg arrived at Burgersdorp, Cape Colony, and alleged that the Boers had robbed them wholesale and flogged them with "blackknives."

Boats of Boers.

LONDON, Oct. 20.—The Cape Town correspondent of the Daily Mail says: "The Boers are boasting that they will hold fancy dress balls and masquerades in British uniforms at Cape Town and Durban by the end of October."

"Another 25,000 pounds of Transvaal gold has been seized, aboard the steamer Avondale Castle at Delagoa Bay."

Boers Blow up Bridges.

CAPE TOWN, Oct. 19.—The Boers have blown up the bridges at Fourteen Streams and the Modder river, the former north and the latter south of Kimberley.

VRYBURG SURRENDERS TO BOERS.

Inhabitants Flee in all Directions. The British are Wildly Indignant.

THERE WAS A FEARFUL PANIC

Boers Suffer a Severe Reverse at Spruitfontein South of Kimberley.

LONDON, Oct. 20.—The Cape Town correspondent of the Daily Mail telegraphing at 10 o'clock Thursday says: "Vryburg surrendered Sunday. To-night's dispatches from Kuruman, ninety miles west by south of Vryburg, state that the police having withdrawn from Vryburg, the town surrendered to the Boers, the inhabitants fleeing in all directions, mostly toward Kuruman. When the police withdrew the Cape Boers notified the fact to the enemy, thus inviting them to take possession. There was a fearful panic. The British are wildly indignant at this scuttling."

LONDON, Oct. 20.—The Ladysmith correspondent of the Daily Telegraph, under date of October 19, afternoon, says:

"The Boers captured a train which left Ladysmith at 12:30, near Elands-laagto. It contained several officers and a few men, beside civilians, all going to Glencoe or Dundee. Fortunately the 10:30 up train, which contained one of your correspondents got through. The enemy cut the wires, severing communication with Glencoe. The news was first received from the station master at Elands-laagto, who wired: 'I see Boers near the line. What shall I do?'"

"Ladysmith answered: 'Let the train run ahead full speed.'"

"It did so, making 'for the north of Elands-laagto.'"

"The official said: 'The Boers are mustering and firing to stop the train—they have stopped it. What shall I do? Must I go?'"

"Yes, go," was the reply.

"Thereupon the messages ceased and since the line has been blocked. Probably the station master escaped."

BOER REVERSE

Sustained at Spruitfontein Near Kimberley in an Attack Upon an Armored Train.

ORANGE RIVER, Oct. 18. (Delayed in transmission).—Afternoon.—The Boers suffered a reverse on Sunday at Spruitfontein, ten miles south of Kimberley. An armored train went out to bring in a train reported to have been captured by the Boers near the Spruitfontein siding. A party of Boers who were encamped nearby lowered the railway signal and displayed a white flag, apparently with the idea of inducing the train to proceed. The driver suspected that the Boers were in possession and stopped the train, whereupon Boers issued in large force and opened fire, but without any effect.

The soldiers replied from the train and about half a dozen Boers were killed. The British were unscathed.

Seven hundred Boers surprised a party of thirteen Cape Colony police who were guarding the railway at Riverton Road, eighteen miles north of Kimberley on Sunday morning. The police retired. A terrific explosion was heard later and it is believed that the Boers blew up the station.

A relief party of twenty-five police, sent from Kimberley, met the Boers near Riverton. The enemy displayed a white flag to induce the troops to fall into their trap, but the police were ordered to retire. Then the Boers opened a heavy fire upon them, discharging about 400 rounds. A bullet struck the horse of Surgeon Major Sullivan who, with a trooper, whose horse had stumbled and dismounted him, was captured.

Boers Falling Back.

LADYSMITH, Oct. 19.—The Free State Boers, on the falling back of the British patrols, occupied Acton Homes yesterday. Their probable intention is to co-operate with the disaffected Natal Dutch in Umvol. Major Adaye says that not a single shell fired at the British scouts by Boer artillery exploded. This bears out the reports that the Boers shells are defective. It is reported that Chief Dinisulu held a Zulu Indaba near Isandula recently. His attitude is loyal.

Alleged Boer Outrages.

CAPE TOWN, Oct. 19.—Complaints of Boer outrages upon the natives continue to arrive. These serve further to inflame the Basutos and Zulus. Yesterday 150 Basutos from Johannesburg arrived at Burgersdorp, Cape Colony, and alleged that the Boers had robbed them wholesale and flogged them with "blackknives."

Boats of Boers.

LONDON, Oct. 20.—The Cape Town correspondent of the Daily Mail says: "The Boers are boasting that they will hold fancy dress balls and masquerades in British uniforms at Cape Town and Durban by the end of October."

"Another 25,000 pounds of Transvaal gold has been seized, aboard the steamer Avondale Castle at Delagoa Bay."

Boers Blow up Bridges.

CAPE TOWN, Oct. 19.—The Boers have blown up the bridges at Fourteen Streams and the Modder river, the former north and the latter south of Kimberley.